

patient information

Magnetic Resonance Imaging



QUEENSLAND
X-RAY

MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING

What is Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)?

This procedure provides detailed images of soft tissues, bone, fat, muscles and the internal organs of your body. A series of images are taken through sections of your body, in any direction desired.

MRI produces different information than other examinations such as X-ray, Ultrasound or CT Scans. In particular, it provides information concerning the soft tissues including nerves, muscles, ligaments and cartilage.

The MRI machine uses a very strong magnetic field and radiowaves to examine a specific area of your body. This technique does not use X-rays and is considered safe and painless.

The examination is performed by an MRI technologist (a Technologist trained in medical imaging who has studied further in MRI) and interpreted by a radiologist (a Doctor who specialises in medical imaging). It requires specialised equipment which is only available at selected Queensland X-Ray practices.

Preparation

In general, MRI does not require specific preparation. It is often performed in conjunction with CT Scans or Plain X-rays. Please bring any previous films with you to your appointment.

Please advise your doctor, the receptionist, as well as the technologist when you arrive if you have a pacemaker, cerebral aneurysm clips or a surgically implanted medical device. People with cardiac pacemakers and cochlear implants cannot be examined by MRI.

Please tell the receptionist if there is a possibility that you are pregnant. You should also advise the Queensland X-Ray staff if you have had a piece of metal in your eye or brain or if you have had eye surgery.

Claustrophobia

Please inform the receptionist if you suffer from severe claustrophobia as you may need sedation for this test.

Procedure

You may be asked to change into a gown as shadows from your clothing will interfere with the imaging process. The equipment has a strong magnetic field, and you will also be asked to leave jewellery, keys and credit cards outside the examination room.



QUEENSLAND
X-RAY

The MRI technologist will position you on the table of the scanner. You will need to remain as still as possible. Throughout the procedure you will be able to hear and talk to the technologist who will be monitoring the examination from an adjacent room.

The magnet makes a knocking and humming sound when scanning. In some circumstances you can listen to music with headphones if you wish, so the noise is less disturbing. When the knocking stops, the computer processes the images for a few seconds before the next scan. It is important not to move or change position.

In some cases it may be necessary to show the blood vessels in your body, and intravenous (via a vein) administration of a special fluid, known as a contrast will be required. Sometimes, a slight sense of warmth or flush may occur and as with all intravenous injections, there is a small chance of an allergic reaction. Although this is rare, a reaction can be very serious. Therefore it is important to tell the staff if you have had any form of reaction to X-ray contrast before, or if you are an asthmatic.

Examination and Reporting Time

The examination will take between 15 minutes and one hour to complete. MRI images take considerable time to process and report. It is important, therefore, that you clarify with the receptionist whether you can wait for your results, or if alternative arrangements need to be made to collect them.

Payment

Please note that a Medicare rebate and a health fund benefit may apply for these examinations. In most cases however a gap payment, which is the patient's responsibility, will also be required.

Should you require further information regarding Magnetic Resonance Imaging please contact Queensland X-Ray or visit our website at www.qldxray.com.au.

Administration

PO Box 109 Sunnybank
Queensland 4109

Telephone: (07) 3343 9466
Facsimile: (07) 3343 7055
Website: www.qldxray.com.au

Contact us

MRI is performed at the following Queensland X-Ray practices:
For MRI bookings please phone:

Mater Private Hospital
South Brisbane
Ph: (07) 3840 6206

Greenslopes Private Hospital
Ph: (07) 3421 0424

Coorparoo
Ph: (07) 3456 3100

Southport, 128 Queen Street
Ph: (07) 5581 0920

St. Vincent's Hospital Toowoomba
Ph: (07) 4659 4500

Mater Private Hospital Mackay
Ph: (07) 4965 6200

Mater Private Hospital Townsville
Ph: (07) 4759 2800

Cairns Private Hospital Cairns
Ph: (07) 4046 7800

This brochure deals with matters of a technical nature in general terms only. Patients should contact Queensland X-Ray personnel or their referring doctor for more details relating to preparation procedures. No responsibility for injury incurred by any person acting or refraining from action in reliance upon any material in this brochure can be accepted by any of the partners or staff of Queensland X-Ray.

© Copyright 2009 Queensland X-Ray Pty. Ltd.
A.B.N. 40 094 502 208.

Print Date: 06/09

608